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town, and for your expressions of inviolable attachment to our beloved Sovereign, his family and government. In the arduous contest in which we are engaged, I have with you the firmest reliance on the valour of our fleets and armies—and on considering the magnitude of the objects at stake, I trust we may also rely on the exertions of all classes for the preservation of our invaluable constitution, and in defence of our King and Country.

THE KING'S SPEECH.

The speech pronounced in his majesty's name, on opening the session is, in substance:—

“That the commissioners have it in command from his majesty to express his majesty's deep regret, that the exertions of the Emperor of Austria against the violence of France had proved unavailing; and that his imperial majesty had been reduced to the necessity of abandoning the contest, and concluding a disadvantageous peace. Though the war was entered upon by the Emperor of Austria, without any concert with his majesty; yet his majesty had thought it right to make every effort for the assistance and support of his imperial majesty, when engaged in the contest so far as was consistent with a due support of the powers in alliance with his majesty, and with a due regard to the safety and interest of his majesty's dominions. His majesty's attention had been attracted to the enemy's naval armaments and establishments in the Scheldt, which it had been thought proper to destroy, as well because they were becoming daily more formidable to his majesty's dominions, as because an attack upon them would have the effect of withdrawing part of the enemy's forces on the Danube, or diverting the troops intended for that destination; while it would at the same time rouse the spirit, and confirm the vigour and resolution of the Austrian government and people, and animate the general resistance of those opposed to the common enemy. These considerations had determined his majesty to employ his forces on an expedition to the Scheldt; and, although the principal ends of that expedition had not been attained in the extent that was confidently hoped, yet advantages very material to the prosecution of the war had accrued with success against the enemy, and with safety to his majesty's dominions, by the destruction of the enemy's docks and arsenals at Flushing, which had been accomplished in consequence of the reduction of the island of Walcheren by the valour of his majesty's fleets and armies. His majesty had given directions to lay before

his parliament the documents requisite to afford satisfactory information on the subject of this expedition.

“His majesty had given it in command, to notify that Sweden had determined to make peace with France. His majesty, in his intercourse with that power, had uniformly impressed that the continuance of the war was to depend on the result of the consideration of his or her own objects and situation. While, therefore, his majesty felt regret that Sweden had been compelled to purchase peace by great sacrifices, it was a consolation to him, that she could not complain of being subjected to these sacrifices by his majesty's interference, or with a view to his interest. It is his majesty's earnest wish, that no event should occur to disturb the relations of amity subsisting between him and that power.

“The commissioners have it further in command from his majesty to inform his parliament, that the efforts made for the deliverance of Portugal, aided by the confidence the Prince Regent had reposed in his majesty, and the co-operation of the local government of that country had been successful in expelling the French from it; and that the forces which had accomplished that object, had afterwards, under the command of Lord Viscount Wellington, gained a glorious victory at Talavera, which checked the progress of the French in Spain. The Spanish government, governing in the name, and by the authority of Ferdinand VII. had, in consequence of this victory, been enabled to make more effectual provisions for the defence of the country; and his majesty trusted, that the approaching assemblage of the Cortes, would infuse fresh vigour into the country, and enable the people to maintain with spirit the contest for their independence. His majesty was satisfied it would be felt to be an object of most important consideration to aid and supply, by our continued efforts, the struggle thus maintained for the independence of Spain, and he trusted to the support of his parliament for that object.

“The negotiations between his majesty's minister to the United States of America had been suddenly interrupted, in a manner that was to be lamented; but his majesty had received from the American minister in this country the strongest assurances of a disposition to maintain the relations of peace and amity; a disposition which should be met with a corresponding inclination on the part of his majesty.

“To the gentlemen of the house of commons, the commissioners had it in command to say, that the estimates of the

current year should be laid before them; and that while those estimates had been framed with every attention to economy that a regard to the safety and interest of his majesty's empire would admit; his majesty lamented the pressure of the burthens which the continuance of the war rendered it necessary to lay upon his subjects.

"His majesty recommends the lords and gentlemen to resume the consideration of an increased provision for the inferior clergy. The accounts of the trade and revenue of the empire are represented to be highly satisfactory. The measures adopted by the French government against these parts of our resources had altogether failed of their intended effect; but the enemy continued the contest with his usual animosity; and to defeat his designs against his majesty's dominions and his allies, the utmost exertions, vigilance and fortitude, would be required; for which his majesty relied on the wisdom of his parliament, the valour of his forces, and the determination of his people."

CATHOLIC MEETING.

At a general meeting of the Roman Catholics of the city of Limerick, convened by public advertisement, and held at the Commercial Buildings, on Friday, the 22d December, 1809.

WILLIAM ROCHE, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

The following resolutions were agreed to:

That, estimating the importance of the Catholic claims, not only to ourselves, but to the empire at large, no session should intervene without petitioning parliament for the repeal of those existing and unmerited laws that still exclude us from an equal participation of the benefits of the constitution, which we support and defend with an attachment not inferior to any other description of our fellow subjects.

That we deem it expedient, that a distinct petition should be presented from our body in this city, and that the petition which has been now read meets our approbation and concurrence.

That the Right Hon. Colonel Vereker, our city representative, be requested to present and support our said petition to parliament—and that our countymembers, Colonel Odell and the Hon. Windham Quin, (whose prior aid, and steady attachments claim our sincere acknowledgements) be likewise requested to support the same.

That our gratitude is due to our Protestant and other enlightened fellow-subjects of different communions, who have had the liberality to admit the justice of

our claims, and the good sense to see the expediency of exciting in all classes of his majesty's subjects an equal share of zeal, by giving them an equal share of interest in the defence of the constitution.

That our chairman, and the following gentlemen—John Howley, Dennis Lyons, John Kelly, John M'Namara, Christopher Meade, and Michael Arthur, esqs. be requested to continue a committee for the purpose of forwarding our said petition, and taking such other steps as circumstances may render necessary.

That the foregoing resolutions be signed by our chairman, and published in the Limerick, Cork, Dublin and London newspapers.

WILLIAM ROCHE, CHAIRMAN.

Mr. Roche having left the chair, and John Howley, esq. having been called thereto;

The thanks of this meeting were unanimously voted to Mr. Roche, for his very proper conduct in the chair.

JOHN HOWLEY,

Letter published by the Friends of Lord Grenville, in Answer to the various Placards, Lampons, Caricatures, &c. issued by the partizans of Lord Eldon, relative to the Oxford election.

TO THE MEMBERS OF CONVOCATION.

During the whole of the present contest, the friends of Lord Grenville have studiously abstained from every thing which could be thought offensive or disrespectful to either of the other candidates. They have been led to adopt this conduct, not only because it best accorded with Lord Grenville's wishes and with their own feelings, but because they were convinced also, that the honour of the University, which is of more importance than the success of any candidate especially required it. At the same time they are ready to profess their belief, that, among honourable men, such conduct gave them the fairest prospect of success.

Their leading principle of action has been to appeal individually to the good sense and unbiassed judgments of those who may from their education be expected to abhor vulgar calumny, and to be superior to vulgar prejudice. And whenever a more public appeal has been made, it has been extorted from them by the necessity of refuting charges, publicly advanced, or of stopping the circulation of direct falsehood. In all these proceedings they have never gone beyond the line of strict defence, they have never forgotten what was due to the high character of the nobleman whose cause they espoused, to the dignity of that station which he is deserv-